



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
1ST MARINE DIVISION (REIN)
BOX 555380
CAMP PENDLETON, CALIFORNIA 92055-5380

IN REPLY REFER TO:

5830

MAY 17 2018

FIRST ENDORSEMENT on [REDACTED] ltr 5800 IO of 2 May 18

From: Commanding General, 1st Marine Division

To: File

Subj: COMMAND INVESTIGATION INTO FACTS AND CIRCUMSTANCES
SURROUNDING THE COMMAND INSPECTOR GENERAL COMPLAINT ICO
3D LAR [REDACTED] AND [REDACTED]

1. I have reviewed the investigation and find that it is in compliance with the reference. This investigation was conducted to determine the validity of a hotline complaint but quickly morphed into a more complex case. As soon as allegations of sexual assault were reported, these allegations were referred to Naval Criminal Investigative Services (NCIS) and this investigation was suspended. After NCIS informed the Division leadership that our resumption of the investigation would not interfere with their own investigation, the investigation was re-started.

2. I concur with the Investigating Officer's findings of fact, opinions, and recommendations. The below actions will be taken:

a. [REDACTED] is relieved of command. [REDACTED] failed to properly investigate allegations of misconduct by [REDACTED] undermining his own credibility to lead. Had [REDACTED] done even a cursory investigation, he would easily have uncovered the sexual assault allegations of [REDACTED] against senior Marines. Additionally, he would likely have uncovered the alleged misconduct of [REDACTED]. [REDACTED]'s lack of action and poor judgment, combined with a poor command climate, have caused me to lose confidence in his abilities to lead the 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion.

b. [REDACTED] is relieved of his duties because I have lost confidence in his leadership. Allegations of sexual assault against him are being investigated by NCIS, but regardless of the outcome of that investigation, I find sufficient evidence that he failed to properly address an allegation of [REDACTED]'s adultery. His reluctance to handle this allegation properly has caused me to lose confidence in him.

c. I direct a command investigation into the allegations against [REDACTED] be conducted by a Division Staff Officer.

d. Once I review the completed NCIS investigation into alleged sexual assault, I will take appropriate action as necessary in response to any possible misconduct or failure to report misconduct by members of 7th Marine Regiment.

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3. A simple preliminary inquiry following the altercation between [REDACTED] and his wife, in the middle of the 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion Command Post, would have revealed multiple leadership failures and potential crimes. Sadly, [REDACTED] did not use proper judgment when he summarily dismissed this altercation. The command climate suffered as a result of his inaction.

4. The point of contact for this matter is the [REDACTED], 1st Marine Division, [REDACTED].